

Message Text

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S E C R E T ANKARA 1430

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM MATT NIMETZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, TU, US

SUBJ: US-TURKISH RELATIONS - FEBRUARY 1978

1. IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME, AFTER TWO DAYS OF INTENSIVE MEETINGS INCLUDING ONE-AND-ONE HALF HOURS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THAT ECEVIT AND HIS SUBORDINATES MISINTERPRETED YOUR SYMPATHETIC EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO ALLIED DEMOCRACIES SHOULD BE BROADENED AND DEEPENED. THEY SINCERELY THOUGHT I WOULD BRING CONCRETE OFFERS OF IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PLUS CONFIRMATION THAT WE WOULD NOT ONLY OBTAIN APPROVAL OF, BUT SUPPLEMENT, THE DCA.

2. INSTEAD WE BROUGHT MORE WORDS. OUR ADVICE THAT THEY MUST FIRST WORK THINGS OUT WITH THE IMF AND OUR CLEAR MESSAGE THAT WE HAD NO US DOLLARS FOR TURKEY WERE SEEN HERE AS VERY DISAPPOINTING SIGNS OF "INDIFFERENCE" TO THE PLIGHT OF A DEMOCRACY AND ALLY IN NEED. (ECEVIT KNOWS HOW MUCH SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE WE ARE GIVING TO EGYPT, JORDAN AND SYRIA, WHICH ARE NEITHER DEMOCRACIES NOR ALLIES; HE KNOWS WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR PORTUGAL, NOT TO MENTION AFRICAN COUNTRIES, FACING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.)

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3. OUR TURKISH FRIENDS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE CONCERNED THAT ECEVIT MAY REACT IN A WAY THAT HARMS HIS AND OUR INTERESTS. PART OF THEIR FEAR IS THAT THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN LED TO EXPECT AN AMERICAN CUSHION AGAINST THE CERTAIN PAINS OF AUSTERITY. A DOSE OF REALITY WAS SURELY NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT THE TURKS WOULD CONTINUE TO

TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS. IT WAS DELIVERED SYMPATHETICALLY, BUT LOUD AND CLEAR. I DO BELIEVE THOUGH THAT WE MUST SPEND SOME TIME AND EFFORT REVIEWING TURKEY'S ECONOMIC PLIGHT, AND THE CONSEQUENCES FOR EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, NATO AND THE US IF TURKEY DISINTEGRATES ECONOMICALLY, SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY.

4. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DO ITS UTMOST ON CYPRUS. ECEVIT AND ELEKDAG GAVE AMBASSADOR SPIERS AND ME SOME KEY ELEMENTS OF THEIR PROPOSALS, WHICH WILL GO TO WALDHEIM IN MARCH. THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL WILL BE MUCH IMPROVED OVER VIENNA, A REAL FEDERATION, ALTHOUGH HAVING AN EVOLUTIONARY APPROACH. THE TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL WILL BE MORE REASONABLE, THEY SAY, THAN THE CORRESPONDING GREEK ONE, ALTHOUGH THE FIRST OFFER WILL NOT BE "GENEROUS." IT WILL, HOWEVER, NECESSITATE THE RESETTLING OF 6-18,000 TURKS - ALMOST TEN PERCENT OF THE ENTIRE TURKISH CYPRIOT POPULATION. VAROSHA, ULTIMATELY, WILL ALSO BE NEGOTIATED. E. CONCERN-ING GREECE, THE TURKS ARE TAKING GREAT PAINS TO MAKE THE MARCH 9-10 SUMMIT WITH CARAMANLIS HARMONIOUS AND PRODUCTIVE. IN THESE AND OTHER WAYS, ECEVIT HOPES TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION AND, HOPEFULLY, TO REBUILD RELATIONS WITH US-THOUGH HIS FAITH HAS BEEN SHAKEN AGAIN IN THE CONCRETE
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MEANING OF OUR FRIENDSHIP.

5. THE TURKS WILL REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS SOON WITH THE IMF AND THEY WILL ANNOUNCE AN AUSTERITY PLAN. FINALLY, THEY AWAIT OUR EFFORT TO RATIFY THE DCA IN MARCH (AS TO WHICH THEY BELIEVE A COMMITMENT WAS MADE) AND THEN TO HELP PROTECT AND SUSTAIN THEIR STRUGGLING DEMOCRACY IN THE COMING YEARS.

6. IN MY LENGTHY MEETING WITH ECEVIT HE WAS ELOQUENT AND SINCERE IN HIS DESIRE TO BROADEN OUR RELATIONSHIP. HOWEVER, ONE THING IS CLEAR-HE EXPECTS THE EMBARGO TO BE LIFTED BY THE TIME OF THE NATO SUMMIT. IF NOT, WE WERE TOLD, HE WILL NOT COME, AND HE IMPLIED, HE WOULD HAVE TO ACT TO PRESERVE THE SECURITY OF TURKEY. HIS ACTIONS MAY BE DISTRESSING TO US AND NATO, AND HARMFUL TO TURKEY'S LONG-TERM RELATIONS WITH THE WEST.

7. I WILL GIVE YOU A FULL REPORT UPON MY RETURN.
SPIERS

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NNN

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